

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 162020Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1735

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2968

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM

SUBJECT: SEC REPORT ON ALCOA ON PAYMENTS ABROAD

REF: STATE 175327

1. I CALLED PRIME MINISTER

EARLY THIS MORNING

AND CONVEYED TO HIM THE POINTS MENTIONED IN PARA THREE
REFTEL. HE HAD NOT SEEN THE "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE
BUT HAD READ THE AP STORY WHICH ERRONEOUSLY IDENTIFIED
THE PRIME MINISTER AS THE HEAD OF THE RULING JAMAICAN
PARTY TO WHICH THE \$25,000 ALCOA PAYMENT WAS MADE.
WHEN I QUOTED TO HIM THE POINT THAT ALCOA HAD MADE
POLITICAL PAYMENTS IN THE PAST TO BOTH PARTIES IN JAMAICA,
HE ASKED IF HE COULD USE THAT INFORMATION IN HIS PUBLIC
RESPONSE TO THE AP STORY WHICH WAS CARRIED ON THE FRONT
PAGE OF TODAY'S "DAILY GLEANER". HE FRANKLY WAS DELIGHTED
TO HAVE THE INFORMATION AS HE FELT IT WOULD HELP
HIM IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES HE WAS RECEIVING FROM THE
LOCAL PRESS.

2. COMMENT: THE ENTIRE TONE OF OUR CONVERSATION
WAS MOST FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL. AP'S MISTAKE IN
REPORTING THE STORY ACTUALLY TURNED TO OUR ADVANTAGE
AS IT PLACED THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE DEFENSIVE. THE
PREVIOUS REVELATIONS TFFR
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WSEVXND REYNOLDS POLNJKZL#

PAYMENTS DID NOT RAISE A STIR LOCALLY AND HOPEFULLY
THE ALCOA PAYMENTS WILL PASS WITHOUT CREATING ANY MAJOR
PROBLEMS.
GERARD

NOTE BY OC/T: AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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